

The Caribbean Institute for Health  
Research (CAIHR) & The Healthy Caribbean  
Coalition (HCC)

Profile of Regional Food Imports in the  
CARICOM Region

Virtual Caribbean Food Policy Research Symposium

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# Structure of the Presentation

- This presentation includes a profile of the Foods being imported into CARICOM. It includes an insight of commodities and products listed in HS 1 - 24.
- The presentation then provides a profile of the Highly Processed and / or Ultra-processed Foods imported for consumption.

# Highly processed and / or Ultra-processed Foods



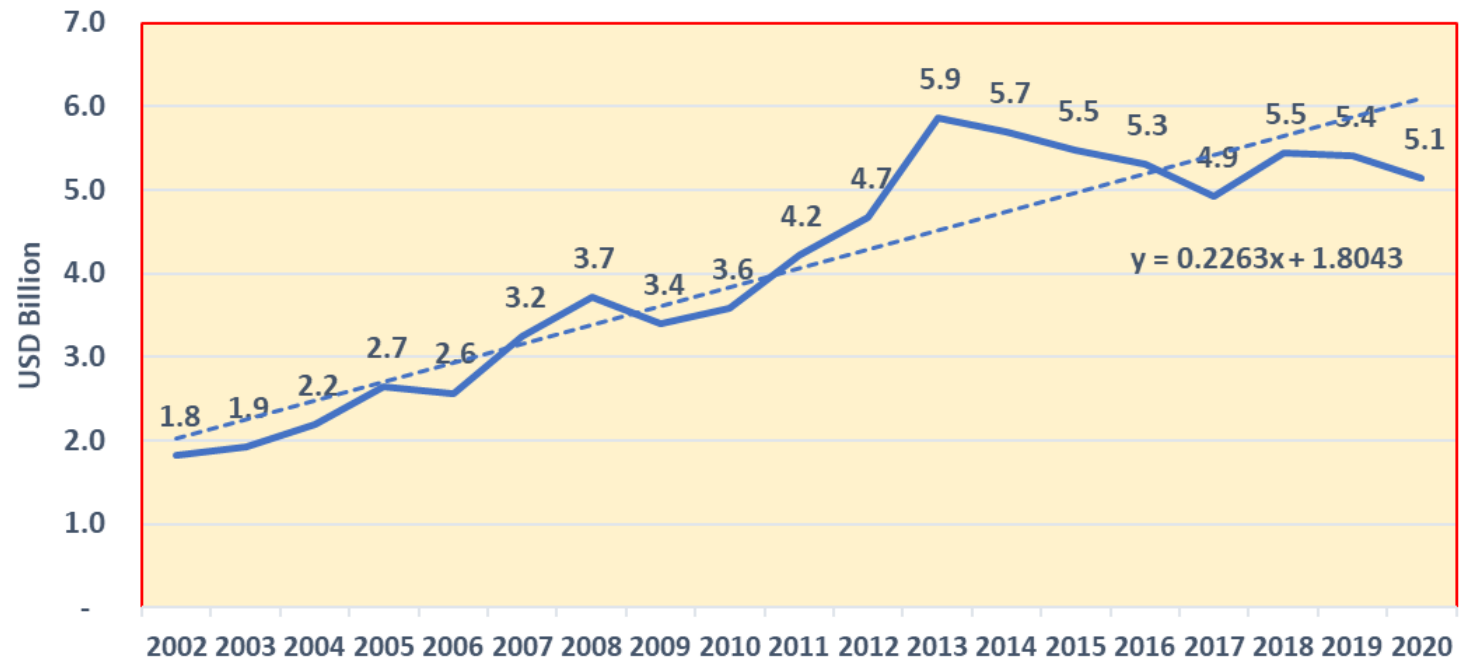
- Highly processed or ultra-processed foods typically have many added ingredients such as sugar, salt, fat, and artificial colors or preservatives.
- Ultra-processed foods are made mostly from substances extracted from foods, such as fats, starches, added sugars, and hydrogenated fats. They may also contain additives like artificial colors and flavors or stabilizers.
- Examples of these foods are frozen meals, soft drinks, hot dogs and cold cuts, fast food, packaged cookies, cakes, and salty snacks.
- <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/what-are-ultra-processed-foods-and-are-they-bad-for-our-health-2020010918605>

# Unprocessed or minimally processed foods

- Unprocessed or minimally processed foods are whole foods in which the vitamins and nutrients are still intact. The food is in its natural (or nearly natural) state.
- These foods may be minimally altered by removal of inedible parts, drying, crushing, roasting, boiling, freezing, or pasteurization, to make them suitable to store and safe to consume.
- Unprocessed or minimally processed foods would include carrots, apples, raw chicken, melon, and raw, unsalted nuts.

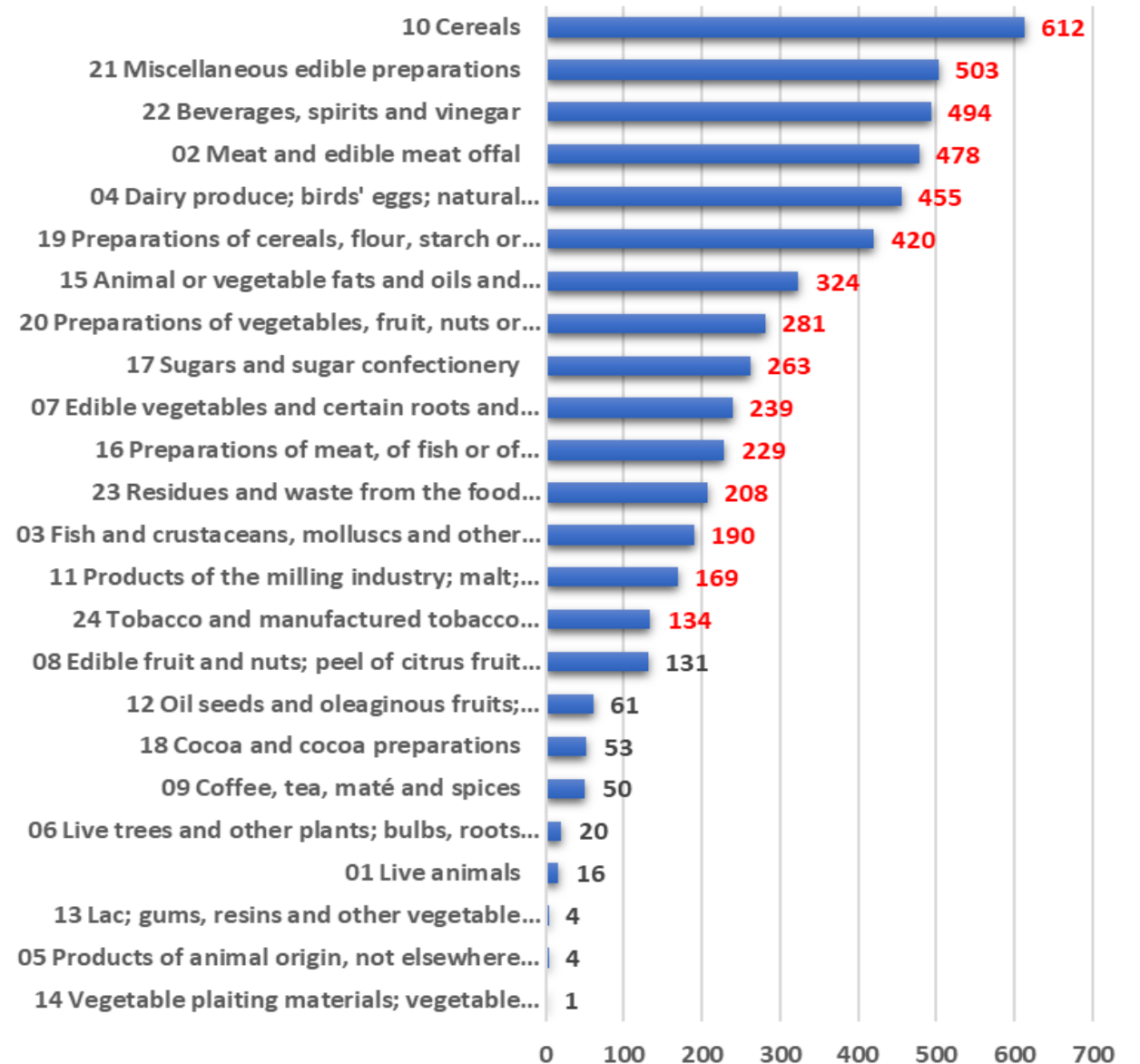
# Profile of Regional Food Imports in the CARICOM Region – Increasing Trend

Chart 1: Trend of CARICOM HS 1-24 Food Imports (2017-2020) USD Billion  
(Data Source: ITC Database)



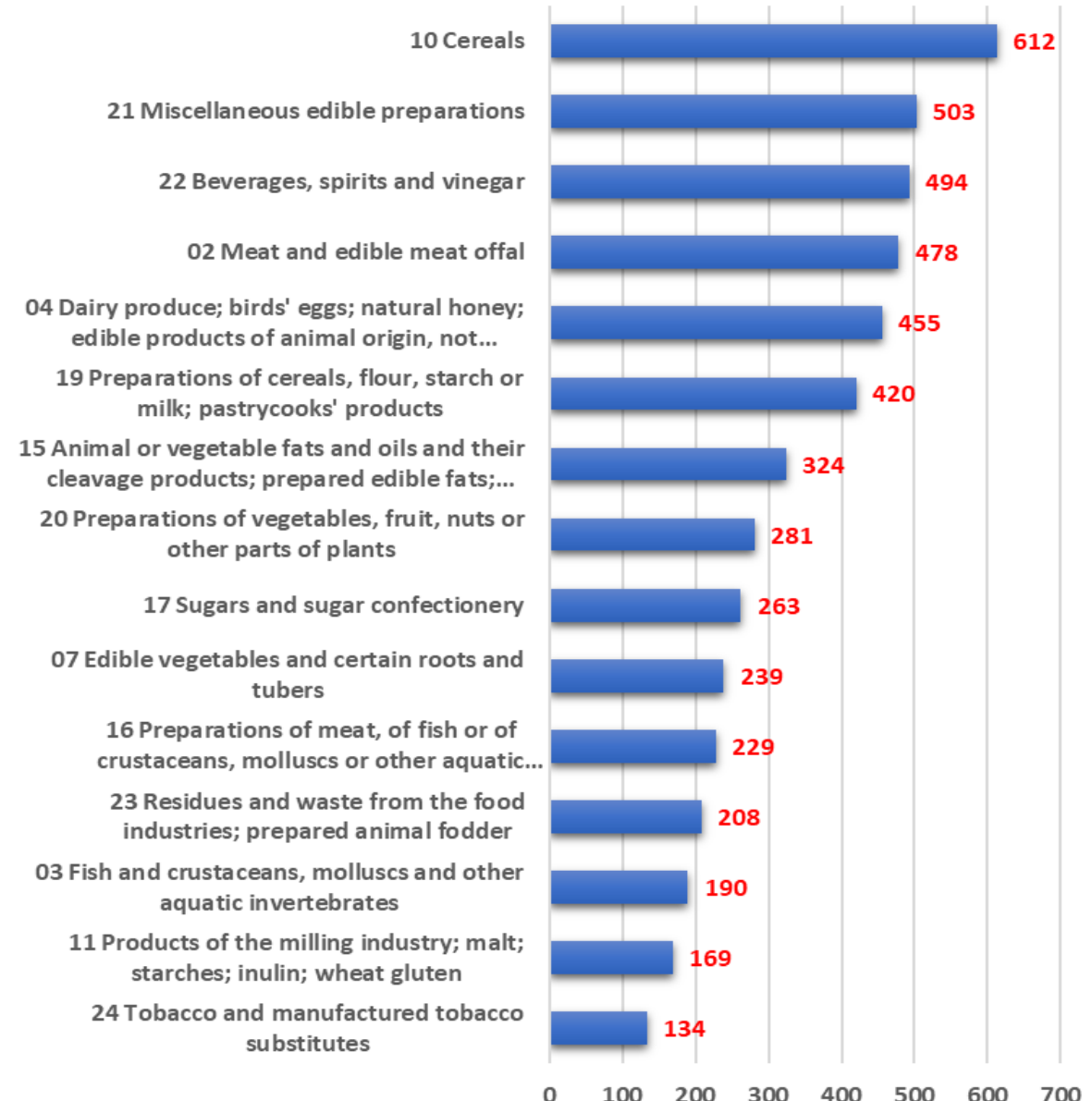
# Profile of Major Foods being imported into CARICOM

**Chart 2: Profile of CARICOM HS 1-24 Food Imports (2017-2020) USD Million**  
(Data Source: ITC Database)



# Profile of Top15 Major Foods being imported into CARICOM

**Chart 3: Profile of CARICOM Top 15 Food Imports (2017-2020) USD Million**  
(Data Source: ITC Database)



Product group:  
Unprocessed or  
minimally  
processed foods,  
Cereals, Raw  
Sugar

## Product group: Unprocessed or minimally processed foods

\$ MILLION

Code	Product label	2017-2020 av
100630	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice,	289
'170199	Cane or beet sugar and chemically	98
'110100	Wheat or meslin flour	78
'190110	Food preparations for infant use, p	53
'170114	Raw cane sugar, in solid form, not c	47
'190190	Malt extract; food preparations of f	33
'190490	Cereals (excluding maize [corn]) in	26
'190490	Cereals (excluding maize [corn]) in	26
'180690	Chocolate and other preparations c	25
		<b>674</b>



Product Group:  
Unprocessed or  
minimally  
processed foods  
- Dairy Products

**Product group: Unprocessed or  
minimally processed foods - Dairy  
Products**

\$ MILLION		
'040690	Cheese (excluding fresh cheese,)	91
'040291	Milk and cream, concentrated but	62
'040221	Milk and cream in solid forms, of	35
'040630	Processed cheese, not grated or p	25
'040221	Milk and cream in solid forms, of	35
'040210	Milk and cream in solid forms, of	41
	Other Dairy products	121
		<b>410</b>

## Imports of Oils & Fats

### Product group: Unprocessed or minimally processed foods - Oils & Fats

\$ MILLION

Code	Product label	2017-2020 av
'151190	Palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined	122
'150790	Soya-bean oil and its fractions, whether or not refined	37
'151790	Edible mixtures or preparations of animal or vegetable origin	29
'151710	Margarine (excluding liquid)	29
		<b>217</b>

Imports of  
Tobacco  
products  
\$115 M

**Product group: Unprocessed or minimally  
processed foods - Tobacco**

'240220

Cigarettes, containing tobacco

**\$115 M**



Imports of Ultra-Processed Foods \$1.2 Billion

- Bakerwares - \$99 M
- Sweet Biscuits - \$74 M
- Sweetened beverages \$ 72 M
- Sausages - \$50 M
- Prepared potatoes \$ 45 M

## Product group: Ultra-Processed Foods

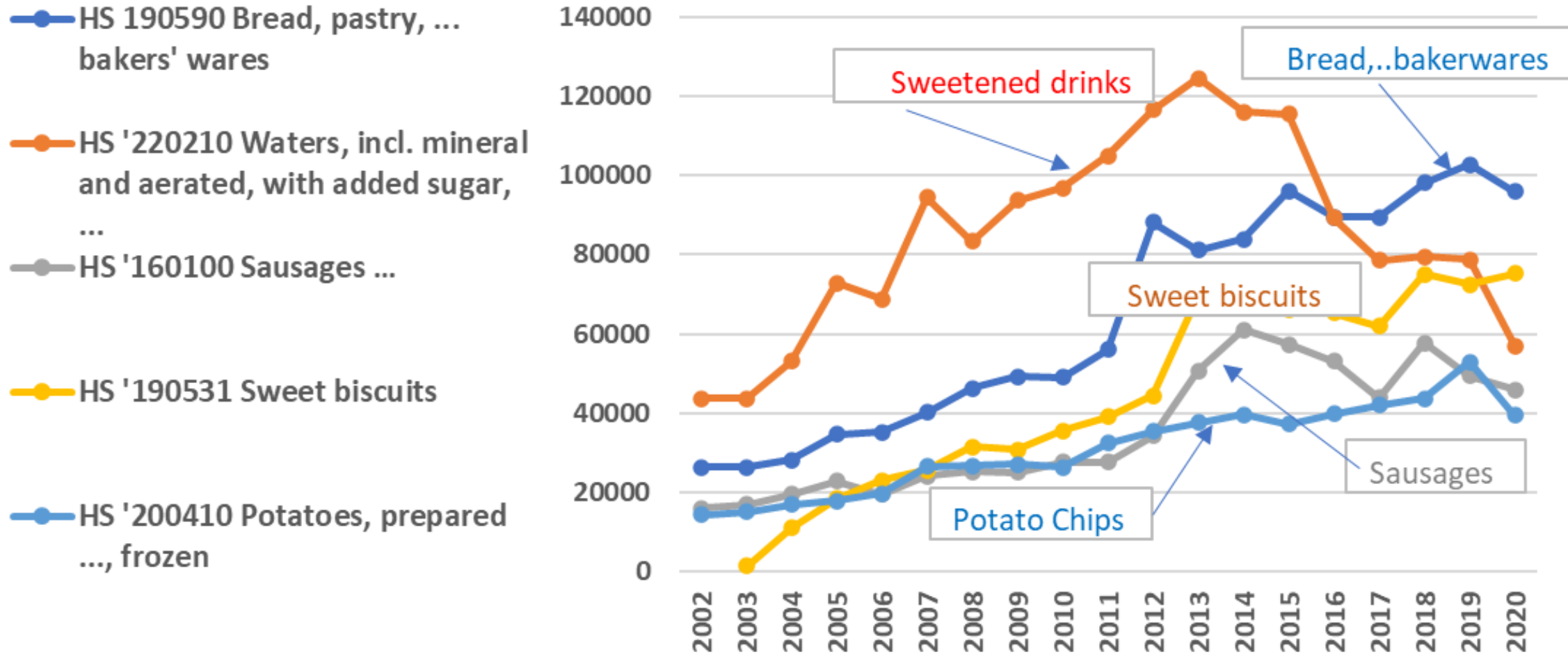
\$ MILLION		
Code	Product label	2017-2020 av
'210690	Food preparations, n.e.s.	290
'190590	<b>Bread, pastry, cakes, biscuits and</b>	<b>99</b>
'210390	Preparations for sauces and prepared	83
'190531	<b>Sweet biscuits</b>	<b>74</b>
'220210	<b>Waters, incl. mineral and aerated</b>	<b>72</b>
'220299	Non-alcoholic beverages (excl. water)	55
'160100	<b>Sausages and similar product</b>	<b>51</b>
'220300	Beer made from malt	51
'220421	Wine of fresh grapes, incl. fortified w	47
'200410	<b>Potatoes, prepared or preserved</b>	<b>45</b>
'170490	Sugar confectionery not containing co	39
'220830	Whiskies	37
'190410	Prepared foods obtained by swelling	37
'190190	Malt extract; food preparations of flo	33
'210320	Tomato ketchup and other tomato sa	32
'190219	Uncooked pasta, not stuffed or other	31
'160415	Prepared or preserved mackerel, wh	28
'160414	Prepared or preserved tunas, skipjack	28
'160250	Prepared or preserved meat or offal	27
'030559	Dried fish, even salted but not smoke	26
'160413	Prepared or preserved sardines, sard	26
'180690	Chocolate and other preparations cor	25

**1.236**

Top  
Importing  
Countries of  
Selected  
Highly  
Processed  
Foods

Product group: Ultra-Processed Foods			Top Importing Countries		
Code	Product label	US\$ Million	#1	#2	#3
		2017-2020 av			
'190590	Bread, pastry, cakes, bis	\$ 99.00	BAH	JAM	TT
'190531	Sweet biscuits	\$ 74.00	HAI	JAM	TT
'220210	Waters, incl. mineral an	\$ 72.00	JAM	BAR	GUY
'160100	Sausages and similar pro	\$ 51.00	BAH	HAI	GUY
'200410	Potatoes, prepared or p	\$ 45.00	TT	JAM	BAR

### Trends in Imports of Highly Processed Foods



*Thank  
you*

